

## Polymorphism of lipid exchange genes in some populations of South and East Siberia

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Lipid metabolism disorders underlie the pathogenesis of a number of diseases. Indigenous peoples of Siberia have a specific genetically determined type of metabolism supporting such lipid blood parameters that favor increased consumption (in comparison with Caucasians) of animal products. At the same time, indigenous Siberian ethnic groups are less susceptible to metabolic diseases. The objective of the presented study was to investigate the allele frequencies of lipid metabolism genes in indigenous populations of Siberia to identify the ethnic features of allele frequency distribution for polymorphic variants in genes *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328) and *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) in the samples taken from Buryats, Teleuts and Russians of Eastern Siberia, and to compare them with data on world populations. Samples of the Eastern ( $N = 132$ ) and Western ( $N = 278$ ) Buryats, Teleuts ( $N = 120$ ), Russians ( $N = 122$ ) and persons of mixed Buryat-Russian origin ( $N = 56$ ) were genotyped by real-time PCR using competitive TaqMan-probes. The obtained results have for the first time demonstrated that the *CETP* and *FTO* allele frequencies in the Buryat samples are intermediate between European and East Asian populations. Significantly lower incidence of the obesity-associated *83401A* allele of the *FTO* gene has been shown in Buryats, compared with Russians, which is consistent with lower susceptibility of the indigenous ethnic groups to metabolic disorders. There have been no population differences in the distribution of *LPL* gene polymorphic variants associated with dyslipidemia, which means they probably do not contribute to the ethnic characteristics of the lipid profile. The intermediate frequencies of the *CETP* *1264G* and *FTO* *83401A* alleles found in the metis group demonstrate that the metabolic disorders associated with these variants can be rather expected in the descendants of mixed marriages than among Buryats. It has also been demonstrated that Teleuts differ by *FTO* *83401A* allele frequency from some of the European groups and have the lowest detected frequency of the allele *CETP* *1264G* associated with the favorable lipid blood parameters.

Key words: Buryats; Teleuts; Russians of Eastern Siberia; mixed origin; real-time PCR; lipid metabolism; genetic polymorphism; *CETP* (rs5882); *LPL* (rs328); *FTO* (rs8050136).

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## Полиморфизм генов липидного обмена в некоторых популяциях Южной и Восточной Сибири

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Нарушения липидного обмена лежат в основе патогенеза ряда заболеваний. Коренные народы Сибири отличаются особым генетически обусловленным типом метаболизма, который поддерживает благоприятные липидные показатели крови при повышенном, по сравнению с европеоидами, вкладе в рацион продуктов животного происхождения. При этом коренные сибирские этносы меньше подвержены заболеваниям метаболического спектра. Цель настоящего исследования – изучение частот аллелей генов липидного обмена в коренных популяциях Сибири. Была поставлена задача на примере бурят, телеутов и русских Восточной Сибири выявить этнические особенности в распределении частот полиморфных вариантов генов *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328) и *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) и сравнить с данными по мировым популяциям. Выборки восточных ( $N = 132$ ) и западных ( $N = 278$ ) бурят, телеутов ( $N = 120$ ), русских ( $N = 122$ ) и потомков смешанных браков бурят с русскими ( $N = 56$ ) генотипированы с помощью ПЦР в режиме реального времени с использованием конкурирующих TaqMan-зондов. В настоящей работе впервые показано, что по частотам полиморфных вариантов генов *CETP* и *FTO* изученные выборки бурят находятся в промежуточном положении между европеоидными группами и популяциями Восточной Азии. Показана статистически значимо меньшая встречаемость у бурят, по сравнению

с русскими, аллеля *83401A* гена *FTO*, ассоциированного с ожирением, что согласуется с меньшей подверженностью этого коренного сибирского этноса метаболическим нарушениям. Не выявлено популяционных различий в распределении полиморфного варианта *LPL 1791G*, связанного с дислипидемией, который, вероятно, не вносит заметного вклада в этнические особенности липидного профиля. Промежуточное значение частот аллелей *CETP 1264G* и *FTO 83401A* в группе потомков смешанных браков бурят с русскими позволяет предположить больший риск ассоциированных с этими вариантами метаболических нарушений у лиц смешанного происхождения, чем среди бурят. У телеутов продемонстрирована пониженная частота *FTO 83401A* по сравнению с некоторыми европеоидными группами и выявлена наименьшая частота *CETP 1264G*, ассоциированного с благоприятными липидными показателями крови.

Ключевые слова: буряты; телеуты; русские Восточной Сибири; метисы; ПЦП в режиме реального времени; липидный обмен; генетический полиморфизм; *CETP* (rs5882); *LPL* (rs328); *FTO* (rs8050136).

## Introduction

For centuries indigenous peoples of Siberia have been adapting to severe climatic and geographical conditions and predominantly protein-lipid diet, and are now characterized by a distinct type of metabolism with increased protein-lipid and minimized carbohydrate exchange (Panin, 1978). It was shown earlier that, if compared to the migrant population, representatives of Siberian ethnic groups, who preserved their traditional way of life, developed a favorable blood lipid profile characterized by decreased total cholesterol, triglycerides, low- and very low-density lipoproteins (LDL, VLDL), and increased high-density lipoproteins (HDL) preventing cardiovascular and other metabolism-associated diseases (Oteva et al., 1993; Sevostyanova, 2013; Darenskaya, 2014; Polyakov et al., 2015; Tsygankova et al., 2017). As the ongoing urbanization impacts the indigenous population, their living and economic conditions change, and the so-called 'civilization diseases' related to metabolic disorders increasingly strike the Siberian peoples (Ovsyannikova et al., 2007; Lyudinina et al., 2014).

Investigation of gene polymorphism in the metabolic profile of indigenous Siberian populations is critical for understanding the molecular-genetic foundations of adaptive potential they developed by adapting to specific climatic and geographical conditions and via certain nutritional habits, and for identifying genetic reserves of ethnic groups in a rapidly changing world (Hsieh et al., 2017; Hallmark et al., 2018). The goal of the present paper is to study the frequencies of the polymorphic variants of lipid exchange genes in Siberian populations, the functional significance being established based on data on world populations.

A *CETP* gene encodes a cholesteryl ester carrier (transfer protein) responsible for cholesterol transport from antiatherogenic HDL to atherogenic LDL (Koch et al., 2014). The data on a number of world populations show that carriers of the *G* allele of the *CETP* polymorphic locus (*G1264A*, rs5882) reduce transfer protein activity and therefore increase HDL (Thompson et al., 2008) as well as decreased triglycerides compared to *AA* homozygotes (Hosseini-Esfahani et al., 2019). In a number of studies, inverse associations of the *1264G* allele increasing a risk of atherosclerosis have been found (Thompson et al., 2008; Cyrus et al., 2016). A twin study of European population showed that *GG* homozygotes have lower body mass index, fat mass, and subcutaneous fat thickness, while *AA* homozygotes demonstrated a faster weight gain under overnutrition (Teran-Garcia et al., 2008).

Studies in Caucasians, Americans of African origin, and Chinese revealed the *GG* genotype could also be associated with longevity, reduced risk of the Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and grey matter anomalies in posterior brain in healthy elderly people (Sanders et al., 2010; Yu et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2014; Salminen et al., 2015).

A lipoprotein lipase (*LPL*) enzyme plays a major part in fat consumption by tissues, as it is responsible for plasma triglyceride hydrolysis to generate free fatty acids and glycerol, thus converting VLDL into LDL and fulfilling tissues' energy requirements (Koch et al., 2014). The polymorphic locus *C1791G* (rs328) of the *LPL* gene is of interest to the researchers, since, as it was shown in a number of world populations, this *G* allele has been associated with favorable changes in lipid composition, i. e. decrease in triglycerides and increase in HDL in healthy subjects (Sagoo et al., 2008; Webster et al., 2009; Tang et al., 2010; Shatwan et al., 2016). The *CC* genotype is shown to be associated with metabolic syndrome in Mexican women of European and African descent and the descendants of indigenous peoples (Cahua-Pablo et al., 2015). In addition, *1791G* is a protective allele against Alzheimer's disease (Ren L., Ren X., 2016).

An *FTO* gene (fat mass and obesity associated gene) encodes 2-oxoglutarate-dependent demethylase for nucleic acids involved in central control of energy homeostasis (Kudryavtseva et al., 2010). In a genome-wide association study (GWAS) it was demonstrated that *FTO* gene polymorphism was associated with a risk of obesity (Babenko et al., 2019). The studies of the *FTO* polymorphic locus (*C83401A*, rs8050136) in world populations of various origins showed that *A* allele carriers had decreased *FTO* gene expression and increased a risk of obesity (Park et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2018). The *FTO* (*83401A*) variant was shown to be associated with type-2 diabetes mellitus in the Russian and East Asian populations (Suplotova et al., 2014; Yang et al., 2017).

We were unable to find any data on the *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328), and *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) allele and genotype frequencies in indigenous Siberian peoples in the literature. In this respect we saw the objectives of our study as to investigate the incidence of these polymorphic variants in Buryats, one of the largest peoples in Eastern Siberia (over 460 K ppl, according to the 2010 census), Teleuts, a small indigenous people in Southern Siberia (about 2.5 K ppl), and Russians from Eastern Siberia; to compare the results to the data on world populations available in the

literature; to match the results obtained with the data on prevalence of dyslipidemia among these ethnic groups. Of equal interest is the distribution of lipid exchange gene variants in descendants from mixed Russian-Buryat marriages, which is the reason they were included in the research as well.

## Materials and methods

The genetic material for this study was collected by the employees of the Laboratory of Populational Ethnogenetics at the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, SB RAS (headed by L.P. Osipova, PhD) during the expeditions of 2003–2006. Blood samples were taken from volunteers, who were apparently healthy at the moment of the procedure after taking their informed consent and receiving the approval of local public health authorities and the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, SB RAS. Before the blood samples were taken, every participant filled in a customized demographic questionnaire, where they specified the ethnic backgrounds of 3–4 generations of their ancestors. The data collected were used to form 5 population samples for the Southern and Eastern Siberia.

Persons of Buryat nationality having no ancestors with foreign ethnic backgrounds and living in Alkhanay and Orlovsky settlements of the Agin-Buryat Autonomous District (ABD) in Zabaykalsky Krai were included in the Eastern Buryat group ( $N = 132$ ). Ethnic Buryats living in the settlements of the Ekhirit-Bulagatsky District of the Ust-Ordyn Buryat Autonomous District (UOBD) in the Irkutsk Region ( $N = 278$ ) were included in the western sample. First- and second-generation descendants from mixed Russian-Buryat marriages were included in the metis sample ( $N = 56$ ). The Teleut sample included the representatives of the indigenous population of Belovo District in the Kemerovo Region ( $N = 120$ ). Long-living Russians from Eastern Siberia, whose ancestors lived in the settlements of Zabaykalsky Krai and the Irkutsk Region for several generations, were included in the fifth sample ( $N = 122$ ).

DNA samples were recovered from venous blood leukocyte fractions using the Biosilica assay kits (Russia). Genotyping of single-nucleotide exchanges in the *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328), and *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) genes was performed via real-time PCR using competing TaqMan-probes complementary to polymorphic DNA segments. Primer and probe structures were chosen based on the sequences available from the NCBI database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) using UGENE (version 1.14, <http://ugene.unipro.ru/>)

and Oligo Analyzer (version 1.0.3, <https://eu.idtdna.com/pages/tools/oligoanalyzer>) software suites (Table 1).

PCR amplification volume was 25  $\mu$ l, and PCR mixture included primers (300 nM), TaqMan-probes (100 nM), TrisHCl (65 mM, pH 8.9),  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  (16 mM),  $\text{MgCl}_2$  (2.5 mM), Tween-20 (0.05 %), dNTP (0.2 mM), DNA (0.5–10 ng), and Taq-DNA polymerase (0.5 U, hot-start, Biosan, IHBFM). PCR conditions were as follows: initial denaturation at 96 °C lasted 3 min and was followed by 46 cycles including denaturation at 96 °C for 5 s and primer annealing with subsequent elongation at 61 °C for 30 s (each step was accompanied by a fluorescent signal recorded at the FAM and R6G fluorophore emission wavelength).

Population allele frequencies of polymorphic variants were determined based on the observed genotype frequencies. The match between the empirically observed genotype frequency distribution and the expected theoretical distribution in Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium was examined using  $\chi^2$  Pearson test (the equilibrium holds at  $p > 0.05$ ). Significance of differences in allele frequencies between the studied samples was determined using  $\chi^2$  test with Yates’s correction for continuity; the results were considered statistically significant at  $p < 0.017$  (considering the multiple testing correction  $0.017 = 0.05/3$ ).

## Results

Genotype distribution for polymorphic loci of the *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328), and *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) genes in samples of Buryats, their metis, Teleuts, and Russians from Eastern Siberia is presented in Table 2.

Genotype distribution matched the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium for all polymorphic loci and samples. The *CETP* *1264G*, *LPL* *1791G*, and *FTO* *83401A* allele frequencies in the studied samples, some additional ethnic groups described in the literature (The 1000 Genomes..., 2012), and population comparison ( $p$ -value) are presented in Tables 3–5.

The *CETP* *1264G* allele associated with favorable lipid blood parameters is widely spread in Africa with the average frequency of 63.8 % and the frequency in the Nigerian population reaching 69 % (The 1000 Genomes..., 2012). It is slightly less common in South (the average of 45 %) and East Asian populations (the average of 43.7 %), as well as Central and South America (the average of 40.1 %). European populations are characterized by decreasing frequency of this protective allele against atherosclerosis with the average frequency of 33.1 %.

**Table 1.** Structures of the primers and probes used for genotyping of single-nucleotide exchanges in the *CETP*, *LPL*, and *FTO* genes

Locus	Primers	Probes
<i>CETP</i> ( <i>G1264A</i> , rs5882)	5'-CCTTGTGGGTCACCTTCTGACT-3'	5'-R6G-CCGAGTCCGTCAGAGC-BHQ-3'
	5'-CACACTTACGAGACATGACCT-3'	5'-FAM-CCGAGTCCATCCAGAGCT-BHQ-3'
<i>LPL</i> ( <i>C1791G</i> , rs328)	5'-CCATTTTCTTCCACAGGG-3'	5'-FAM-CACCAGCCTGACTTCTTATTC-BHQ-3'
	5'-AAGCTCAGGATGCCAGTC-3'	5'-R6G-CACCAGCCTCACTTCTTATTC-BHQ-3'
<i>FTO</i> ( <i>C83401A</i> , rs8050136)	5'-TCAGTTATGCATTTAGAATGTCTGA-3'	5'-FAM-CTGTGAATTTGTGATGCACTTG-BHQ-3'
	5'-CACTCCATTCTGACTGTTACCT-3'	5'-HEX-CTGTGAATTTAGTGTGCACTTG-BHQ-3'

**Table 2.** Genotype distribution for *CETP*, *LPL*, and *FTO* in samples of Buryat, their metis, Teleuts, and Russians from Eastern Siberia

Population			Eastern Buryats	Western Buryats	Metis	Teleuts	Russians from Eastern Siberia
<i>CETP</i> (G1264A, rs5882)	Genotype distribution, n (%)	AA	51 (38.6)	125 (44.9)	27 (48.2)	68 (56.7)	58 (47.5)
		AG	63 (47.7)	120 (43.2)	22 (39.3)	39 (32.5)	52 (42.6)
		GG	18 (13.7)	33 (11.9)	7 (12.5)	13 (10.8)	12 (9.8)
	N, ppl		132	278	56	120	122
	p (H–W)		0.835	0.611	0.457	0.052	0.945
<i>LPL</i> (C1791G, rs328)	Genotype distribution, n (%)	CC	114 (86.4)	227 (81.9)	47 (87.0)	96 (82.8)	102 (83.6)
		CG	17 (12.9)	48 (17.4)	7 (13.0)	16 (13.8)	19 (15.6)
		GG	1 (0.7)	2 (0.7)	0	4 (3.4)	1 (0.8)
	N, ppl		132	277	54	116	122
	p (H–W)		0.936	0.945	0.926	0.519	0.981
<i>FTO</i> (C83401A, rs8050136)	Genotype distribution, n (%)	CC	69 (52.3)	158 (56.9)	21 (38.9)	57 (49.1)	47 (38.5)
		CA	56 (42.4)	106 (38.1)	25 (46.3)	46 (39.7)	56 (45.9)
		AA	7 (5.3)	14 (5.0)	8 (14.8)	13 (11.2)	19 (15.6)
	N, ppl		132	278	54	116	122
	p (H–W)		0.308	0.481	0.9	0.428	0.733

Note: N is the sample size; n is the quantity; p (H–W) is the probability of deviation from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium, metis are the descendants of mixed Russian-Buryat marriages.

**Table 3.** *CETP* 1264G allele frequency in some populations (ethnic groups) and population comparison (p-value)

Population/ethnic group	N, ppl	<i>CETP</i> 1264G frequency, %	Population comparison (p-value)				
			Eastern Buryats	Western Buryats	Metis	Teleuts	Russians from Eastern Siberia
Eastern Buryats*	132	37.5		0.296	0.378	<b>0.017</b>	0.155
Western Buryats*	278	33.5	0.296		0.859	0.089	0.559
Metis*	56	32.1	0.378	0.860		0.401	0.947
Teleuts*	120	27.1	<b>0.017</b>	0.089	0.401		0.385
Russians from Eastern Siberia*	122	31.1	0.155	0.559	0.947	0.385	
Han Chinese, Beijing, China**	103	47.6	<b>0.035</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>
Southern Han Chinese, China**	105	43.3	0.236	<b>0.015</b>	0.066	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>0.009</b>
Japanese, Tokyo, Japan**	104	52.9	<b>0.001</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>p &lt; 0.001</b>
Kinh (Viet) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**	99	38.4	0.920	0.247	0.324	<b>0.016</b>	0.132
Population of the state of Utah, descendants of Northern and Western European settlers**	99	35.9	0.798	0.600	0.581	0.061	0.335
Finns, Finland**	99	35.4	0.714	0.691	0.643	0.077	0.393
English people and Scots**	91	29.7	0.109	0.391	0.762	0.632	0.838
Iberians, Spain**	107	30.8	0.151	0.529	0.909	0.444	0.974
Toscani, Italy**	107	33.6	0.430	0.953	0.881	0.160	0.638

Note: Hereinafter: metis are the descendants of mixed Russian-Buryat marriages; \* the research data; \*\* the data from the literature (The 1000 Genomes..., 2012); p < 0.017 are highlighted in bold if the differences have been considered statistically significant.

**Table 4.** *LPL 1791G* allele frequency in some populations (ethnic groups) and population comparison (*p*-value)

Population/ethnic group	N, ppl	<i>LPL 1791G</i> frequency, %	Population comparison ( <i>p</i> -value)				
			Eastern Buryats	Western Buryats	Metis	Teleuts	Russians from Eastern Siberia
Eastern Buryats*	132	7.2		0.362	0.987	0.287	0.674
Western Buryats*	277	9.4	0.362		0.434	0.797	0.820
Metis*	54	6.5	0.987	0.434		0.351	0.647
Teleuts*	116	10.3	0.287	0.797	0.351		0.633
Russians from Eastern Siberia*	122	8.6	0.674	0.820	0.647	0.633	
Han Chinese, Beijing, China**	103	10.2	0.322	0.846	0.377	0.902	0.675
Southern Han Chinese, China**	103	12.4	0.080	0.280	0.151	0.588	0.245
Japanese, Tokyo, Japan**	104	11.1	0.189	0.572	0.263	0.907	0.463
Kinh (Viet) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**	99	13.1	0.050	0.184	0.113	0.451	0.170
Population of the state of Utah, descendants of Northern and Western European settlers**	99	12.6	0.072	0.255	0.141	0.551	0.225
Finns, Finland**	99	11.6	0.143	0.454	0.218	0.783	0.374
English people and Scots**	91	11.5	0.163	0.497	0.234	0.817	0.407
Iberians, Spain**	107	16.4	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.009</b>	0.021	0.078	<b>0.016</b>
Toscani, Italy**	107	12.6	0.066	0.239	0.136	0.539	0.214

**Table 5.** *FTO 83401A* allele frequency in some populations (ethnic groups) and population comparison (*p*-value)

Population/ethnic group	N, ppl	<i>LPL 1791G</i> frequency, %	Population comparison ( <i>p</i> -value)				
			Eastern Buryats	Western Buryats	Metis	Teleuts	Russians from Eastern Siberia
Eastern Buryats*	132	26.5		0.511	<b>0.038</b>	0.314	<b>0.005</b>
Western Buryats*	278	24.1	0.511		<b>0.004</b>	0.055	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>
Metis*	54	38.0	0.038	<b>0.004</b>		0.249	0.976
Teleuts*	116	31.0	0.314	0.055	0.249		0.105
Russians from Eastern Siberia*	122	38.5	<b>0.005</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.976	0.105	
Han Chinese, Beijing, China**	103	15.0	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>
Southern Han Chinese, China**	105	13.8	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>
Japanese, Tokyo, Japan**	104	17.3	0.023	0.056	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>
Kinh (Viet) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**	99	21.7	0.281	0.557	<b>0.003</b>	0.039	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>
Population of the state of Utah, descendants of Northern and Western European settlers**	99	44.4	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.336	<b>0.006</b>	0.247
Finns, Finland**	99	38.9	<b>0.006</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.975	0.106	0.990
English people and Scots**	91	39.6	<b>0.005</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.884	0.085	0.897
Iberians, Spain**	107	37.4	<b>0.014</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.987	0.185	0.884
Toscani, Italy**	107	46.3	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	<i>p</i> < <b>0.001</b>	0.194	<b>0.001</b>	0.111

The ethnic group of Russians from Eastern Siberia matches the other Caucasian populations described in the literature in the *CETP 1264G* allele frequency (see Table 3). Our investigation showed that this allele frequency is higher in the Buryats than in the Russians, but statistically speaking it is still significantly lower than in a number of East Asian populations. The group of descendants of mixed Russian-Buryat marriages is intermediate between parent populations. The Teleuts, on the other hand, demonstrated the lowest *CETP 1264G* frequency among not only the studied groups but among all the populations described earlier. The differences between the Teleuts, Eastern Buryats, and a number of East Asian populations are statistically significant.

Incidence of *LPL 1791G*, a protective allele against a series of metabolic disorders, is relatively low in human populations (The 1000 Genomes..., 2012). For instance, it varies from 2.5 to 10 % in African populations, from 2.4 to 8.7 % in the indigenous American population, and from 5.2 to 10.8 % in South Asian populations. The incidence of this allele in East Asian populations is 10.2–14 % and in Europeans – 11.5–16.4 %.

No significant differences in the incidence of the *LPL 1791G* allele were found between the studied samples of Buryats, Teleuts, and Russians (see Table 4). All the groups showed a slightly decreased value compared to the data on East Asian and European populations from the literature. However statistically significant differences were found only in the Buryats compared to the Caucasian population of Iberians characterized by the highest incidence of *1791G*.

The *FTO 83401A* allele associated with high body mass index is widely spread in African populations at 38.1–46.8 % and Caucasian populations – at 37.4–46.3 % (The 1000 Genomes..., 2012). It is less common in indigenous populations of Central and South America (21.9–34.6 %) and South Asia (24.3–33.8 %). The incidence of *83401A* is even lower in East Asian, i. e. Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese, populations at 13.8–21.7 %.

The *FTO 83401A* allele frequency in samples of Eastern and Western Buryats was statistically significantly lower than in samples of Russians from Eastern Siberia and Caucasian groups described in the literature (see Table 5). *83401A* allele was also less common in the Teleuts, than in the Russians. In addition, statistically significant differences between the Teleut sample and the Caucasian sample of the population of the state of Utah and the Toscani group from Italy were found. On the other hand, frequencies of the *FTO 83401A* variant in Siberian samples significantly increased if compared to a number of East Asian groups. It was shown earlier for other gene frequencies that indigenous Siberian populations were intermediate between Caucasians and East Asians (Tabikhanova et al., 2018a, b).

## Discussion

The present study is conducted within a topical line of research aiming to investigate specific features of population genetic structure in indigenous Siberian peoples in the context of medical biology and gene geography. Functionally significant *CETP 1264G*, *LPL 1791G*, and *FTO 83401A* alleles have been studied for the first time in populations of Buryats, Teleuts, and Russians from Eastern Siberia, as well as the descendants from mixed Russian-Buryat marriages.

The discovered frequencies were shown to match the general geographical gradient regarding the distribution of *CETP (G1264A, rs5882)* and *FTO (C83401A, rs8050136)* polymorphic variants. The group of Russians from Eastern Siberia matches the other Caucasian populations. Siberian peoples are intermediate between Caucasian and East Asian populations, the only exception being the *CETP 1264G* allele frequency in Teleuts having the lowest recorded frequency among all populations. The development of this population was probably affected by microevolutionary factors (such as genetic drift or passing through a bottleneck). Further research focused on extending the studied sample and covering other territorial groups of Teleuts is required to come to definitive conclusions.

*LPL (C1791G, rs328)* gene polymorphism does not show a pronounced frequency gradient on the world map, and no distribution regularities were found for the *LPL 1791G* allele in the samples studied.

It is worth noting that Buryats have higher ratio of cholesterol-rich animal foods in their diet compared to Russians, the prevalence of animal foods being a distinctive feature of their nutritional intake (Bairova et al., 2013). In addition, it has been shown that negative lipid profile changes (increase in triglycerides, total cholesterol, LDL, and VLDL) in Buryat women in their climacteric period were less noticeable than in the Russian ethnic group (Semenova et al., 2018). Cholesterol levels in patients with myocardial infarctions and diabetes mellitus type 2 are lower in the Buryat population than in patients from Caucasian populations (Bardymova et al., 2015). Adaptation to the hypercontinental climate of the Siberian region, livestock-based economy, and high-calorie diet with high protein and fat contents appears to have affected the frequencies of polymorphic variants of lipid exchange genes in this indigenous Siberian ethnic group.

Lower prevalence of lipid exchange disorders in Buryats matches the increased frequency of the *CETP 1264G* allele associated with favorable lipid blood parameters and decreased incidence of obesity-associated *FTO 83401A* in the population. We were unable to discover any differences in the *LPL 1791G* allele frequencies between the populations, and thus it may turn out to have no effect on a distinctive ethnic lipid profile. Further research into lipid exchange genes in the populations studied will make it possible to better understand the nature of ethnic differences.

Intermediate frequencies of polymorphic variants *CETP 1264G* and *FTO 83401A* in the metis group may indicate a higher risk of the associated metabolic disorders in descendants of mixed marriages. At the same time, the lowest incidence of *LPL 1791G* observed in the metis group is possibly due to the small sample size.

We were unable to find any data on distinctive features of lipid spectrum in Teleuts in the literature, however studies in Shorians, another small indigenous people in the Kemerovo Region, showed the trend of lower prevalence of dyslipidemias compared to migrant Caucasian populations, to be peculiar for Siberian ethnic groups (Tsygankova et al., 2017). At the same time, recent decades saw an increase in cardiovascular diseases in the representatives of a Teleut ethnic group living under environmentally unfriendly conditions in the urbanized areas of Kuzbass (intermountain basin) (Ovsyannikova et

al., 2007). A decreased frequency of obesity-associated *FTO* 83401A allele in Teleuts and Buryats has been demonstrated in the present paper, however the genetic differences of this indigenous Siberian ethnic group from Caucasians are not too significant, as it has been shown earlier for other genes (Tabikhanova et al., 2018a, b). A low frequency of the *CETP* 1264G allele associated with the favorable lipid blood parameters in the population may indicate an increased risk of dyslipidemias in a specific territorial group of Teleuts.

## Conclusions

Ethnic distinctions in the frequency distribution of the polymorphic variants of the *CETP* (*G1264A*, rs5882), *LPL* (*C1791G*, rs328), and *FTO* (*C83401A*, rs8050136) genes in Siberian populations of Buryats, Teleuts, Russians, and descendants of mixed Russian-Buryat marriages have been studied in the present paper for the first time.

The Buryat samples were shown to be intermediate between Caucasian groups and East Asian populations in *CETP* 1264G and *FTO* 83401A frequencies. Compared to the Russians, the Buryats showed a statistically significantly lower incidence of the *FTO* 83401A allele associated with obesity. This agrees with the lower susceptibility of Buryats to metabolic disorders compared to the Caucasian population described in the literature. Intermediate frequencies of *CETP* 1264G and *FTO* 83401A alleles in the metis group may indicate a higher risk of the associated metabolic disorders in the descendants of mixed marriages compared to the Buryats.

A decreased *FTO* 83401A was demonstrated in Teleuts, however the genetic differences of this indigenous Siberian ethnic group from Caucasians are not too significant; Teleuts also showed the lowest *CETP* 1264G frequency among all the populations studied. The results of the present study may imply an increased risk of dyslipidemia in this specific territorial group of Teleuts.

No differences were found in distribution of the polymorphic variant *LPL* 1791G associated with dyslipidemia, and thus it may turn out to have no effect on a distinctive lipid profile of these Siberian peoples.

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